



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

March 23, 2007

Preparedness and Planning

President's FY 2008 Budget Released

On February 5, the President released the [FY 2008 budget](#). The president's budget proposes to cut \$125 million from the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement and \$60 million from the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement. The president proposed \$1.2 billion to continue pandemic influenza preparedness efforts to increase vaccine production capacity and stockpiling, purchase additional antivirals, develop rapid diagnostic tests, and enhance rapid response capabilities. The budget also proposes \$325 million for on-going programs to support a multi-agency Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative.



2007 Public Health Preparedness Summit

From February 20-23, more than 1,900 state, local and federal public health preparedness professionals gathered in Washington, DC, for the second Public Health Preparedness Summit. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health partners jointly sponsored the event. The Summit provided a unique opportunity for the public health preparedness community to share promising practices, lessons learned and updates on public health preparedness activities nationwide. A [full summary](#) of the event is available online.

HHS Launches New Radiation Diagnostic/Treatment Toolkit

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) developed a new downloadable online diagnostic and treatment toolkit designed for health care providers, primarily physicians, who may have to provide medical care during a radiation incident. The new information package includes easy-to-follow procedures for diagnosis and management of radiation contamination and exposure, guidance for the use of radiation medical countermeasures, and a variety of other features to facilitate medical responses. All of this is now available on the Radiation Event Medical Management ([REMM](#)) website.

Emergency Preparedness Booklet for Families with Disabled Children

The Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Children's Special Healthcare Services (CSHCS) developed an emergency booklet, "Being Prepared for an Emergency", for families with disabled children. The [Family to Family Health Information and Education Center](#) (F2FHIEC) is a group of thirty organizations with capacity for outreach to families with disabled children. These organizations will distribute over 50,000 booklets within their respective jurisdictions. To order booklets, please call CSHCS at (800) 359-3722.

News

Michigan Flu Holding Steady

Michigan's influenza incidence is elevated this season but holding steady, according to the March 15 issue of *Flu Focus*, the Michigan Department of Community Health's influenza surveillance report. See [page 5](#) for full details.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive Released

HSPD 18 directs the establishment of medical countermeasures for weapons of mass destruction through a two-tiered approach. Tier 1 - Focused Development of Agent-Specific Medical Countermeasures, and Tier 2 - Development of a Flexible Capability for New Medical Countermeasures. See [page 5](#) for more information.

Boy Sick from Smallpox Vaccine

Doctors are treating a 2-year-old boy in Chicago for a rare and life-threatening infection that he contracted from his father, a U.S. Army soldier recently vaccinated against smallpox. Complete story on [page 7](#).

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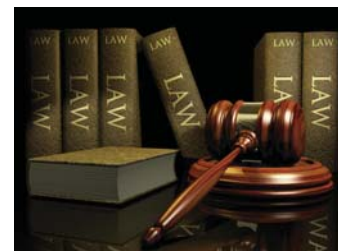
Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:
April 6, 2007

Public Health and Medical Preparedness and Response: Issues in the 110th Congress

The nation's systems to detect and respond to public health threats such as bioterrorism gained renewed interest following the 2001 terrorist attacks. Federal authorities enacted in comprehensive public health preparedness legislation in 2002 were reauthorized in the 109th Congress, building upon lessons learned from flaws in the response to Hurricane Katrina and growing concerns about a flu pandemic. The 109th Congress also completed a statutory reorganization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The [110th Congress](#) is likely to study the implementation of these two laws, and to remain interested in other issues in public health and medical preparedness and response.

Pennsylvania Public Health Law Bench Book

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness has developed a [Pennsylvania Public Health Law Bench Book](#), which provides critical information regarding key areas of public health. The Bench Book also provides a full description of the state's public health infrastructure, analysis of court jurisdiction in public health cases, implications of a disaster declaration, definition of responsibility for costs, as well as checklists and model orders for judicial use. Links to other bench books can be located on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#).



Katrina Report on Interagency Collaboration

The IBM Center for the Business of Government released a report titled [“Delivery of Benefits in an Emergency: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina”](#). The report provides valuable lessons for state and federal agencies, nonprofits, and private organizations that must work together to cope with a large-scale disaster such as Hurricane Katrina. While the author believes that the federal government must lead and support effective coordination, it must also act in conjunction with state governments, local governments, and private organizations that play a major role in emergency responses.

Pandemic

Interventions to Reduce Pandemic Influenza

Many organizations have included measures to decrease contact between persons during an influenza pandemic in their pandemic response plans. [Recent research](#) has explored the effects of school closings, voluntary confinements of ill persons and their household contacts, and reductions in contacts



among long-term care facility (LTCF) residents on pandemic-related illness and deaths. The findings suggest that school closings would not have a substantial effect on pandemic-related outcomes in the absence of measures to reduce out-of-school contacts. However, if persons with influenza-like symptoms and their household contacts are encouraged to stay home, then rates of illness and death might be reduced by around 50%. By preventing ill LTCF residents from making contact with other residents, illness and deaths in this vulnerable population might be reduced by approximately 60%. Restricting the activities of infected persons early in a pandemic could significantly decrease the pandemic's health effects.

FDA Unveils Pandemic Preparedness Plan

On March 14, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [pandemic influenza preparedness plan](#) that defines the agency's current role in federal pandemic planning, such as expediting the review of new vaccines and antivirals. The plan, which is posted on the FDA's website, addresses six major areas: vaccines, antiviral medications, medical devices, food and feed safety, emergency preparedness and response, and enforcement.



Pandemic Flu Kit for Child Care Providers

At some point, whether it is the H5N1 virus or another virus, health experts believe that there will be a new virus that spreads easily among people for which most people have no immunity and for which there is no vaccine. This [packet of information](#), developed by Contra Costa Health Services, provides child care providers with some practical tools to prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak. The material about pandemic flu preparation will also be helpful in preparing for any disaster, including preventing the spread of any infectious diseases.

LLIS Launches New Pandemic Influenza Pages

The Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) website has added to its pandemic influenza page to include morbidity and mortality data for avian influenza, answers to questions of interest, planning support, upcoming conferences, and related links--as well as original research on other diseases that could be applied in the pandemic influenza context. Ten additional planning pages, based on planning elements identified by the Department of Health and Human Services, address the following topics: preparedness networking, surveillance, laboratories, healthcare operations, clinical information, vaccines, antivirals, community disease control, outbreak communication, and workforce resilience. Emergency response providers and homeland security officials from the local, state, and federal levels are eligible to join the [Lessons Learned Information Sharing website](#).

Indonesia Won't Share Bird Flu Samples

[Indonesia](#) will not share bird flu samples with the World Health Organization without a legally binding agreement promising the virus won't be used to develop an expensive commercial vaccine. Indonesia is concerned that large drug companies will use its bird flu samples, sent to WHO affiliated laboratories to confirm human infections, to make vaccines that will ultimately be unaffordable for developing nations.



Portable Lab Could Revolutionize Bird Flu Detection

On March 19, animal health experts from fifteen nations met in Vienna to discuss new [mobile rapid-detection technology](#) that could revolutionize the fight against bird flu and many other livestock diseases. Researchers, scientists and manufacturers discussed the development and potential of portable devices to study samples and discover the cause of death in birds.

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic: Insights for the 21st Century

The 1918–1919 H1N1 influenza pandemic was among the most deadly events in recorded human history, killing an estimated 50–100 million people. Under-

standing the events and experiences of 1918 is of great importance. This review addresses several outstanding questions, concerning pandemic-virus origin, unusual epidemiologic features, and the causes and demographic patterns of fatality. There is a continued need for pandemic vigilance, basic and applied research, and pandemic preparedness planning that emphasizes prevention, containment, and treatment with antiviral medications and hospital-based intensive care.



USDA and FAO Sign Framework Agreement

On March 14, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns and Director-General Jacques Diouf of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) signed a Framework Agreement to coordinate technical assistance between the two organizations. The agreement will help address issues important to agriculture, such as chronic hunger, plant and animal diseases including avian influenza, conservation, genetic resources and the growing demand for renewable energy resources.

Exercises

Michigan Participates in National Volunteer Exercise

In December 2006, the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) participated in the first exercise to test the state's ability to mobilize volunteers in the event of a federal public health emergency. The exercise tested response times, communication processes, chain of command, how the system performed, and how the staff managed it. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invited Michigan and only three other states to participate in the two-day exercise. HHS and multiple state health departments tested volunteer mobilization and deployment protocols within and between state and federal public health entities. This exercise marked the first time that HHS has conducted large-scale volunteer mobilization exercise. An early proponent of electronic volunteer registration, Michigan began work toward developing an electronic volunteer registry system in 2003. Today the MI Volunteer Registry houses a network of close to 2,000 volunteers who stand ready to assist in large-scale emergencies.



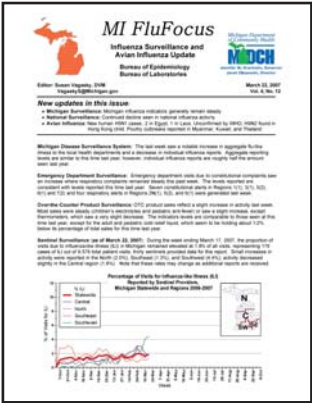
State Tests SNS Distribution Plan

On March 20, the Michigan Department of Community Health conducted a tabletop exercise to test its Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Distribution Plan. Exercise participants included the Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Bureaus of Epidemiology and Laboratories, and the Division of Immunizations. Specific items addressed in the exercise were the deployment logistics for antiviral medications, personal protective equipment (masks, gowns, gloves), respirators, and other federal pandemic countermeasures.

Surveillance

Michigan Flu Report Provides Key Information

The Michigan Department of Community Health publishes its seminal report, *Flu Focus*, approximately every two weeks. This important document compiles influenza data across the state of Michigan, and also monitors avian influenza developments. The [March 15](#) issue of *Flu Focus* indicated the following: 1) Michigan's influenza indicators remain steady at an elevated level; 2) The United States is experiencing a decline in influenza activity; 3) There are new human avian influenza cases in Egypt, and there are new poultry outbreaks in Afghanistan and Vietnam. [Past issues](#) of *Flu Focus* are also available from the MDCH seasonal influenza website.



Bird Flu Summit Pushes for More Aggressive Campaign

The [Fourth International Bird Flu Summit](#) took place in Washington, DC, on March 14 and 15. Public health officials, business leaders, policy makers, and scientists identified and addressed issues vital to the success of the fight against bird flu. Participants have agreed to come up with a more aggressive campaign for bird flu readiness reinforced by strong alliances among all sectors involved.

Healthcare Preparedness

White House Releases Medically Focused Homeland Security Presidential Directive

The White House has released a new Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) – [HSPD 18 Medical Countermeasures against Weapons of Mass Destruction](#). HSPD 18 directs the establishment of medical countermeasures through a two-tiered approach: Tier 1 - Focused Development of Agent-Specific Medical Countermeasures, and Tier 2 - Development of a Flexible Capability for New Medical Countermeasures. The directive also instructs:

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to lead the strategic process for the development of medical countermeasures by establishing an interagency committee, ensuring that all relevant HHS programs and functions are aligned to support strategic planning, creating an advanced development portfolio to target investments in promising countermeasures, and developing a strategy to engage the private sector in the process.
- The Secretary of Defense to coordinate with the Secretary of HHS on defense efforts to develop medical countermeasures for the Armed Forces.
- The Secretary of Homeland Security to integrate findings from the intelligence and law enforcement communities with input from the scientific, medical, and public health communities to develop a strategic chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessment.



New Mass Medical Care Guide

Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide is the product of a collaborative effort between AHRQ and the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (HHS) and can be found [online](#).

Post Katrina Health Care: Continuing Concerns and Immediate Needs in the New Orleans Region

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations heard [evidence](#) regarding the continuing issues and immediate needs in health care for New Orleans. Kaiser Family Foundation Executive Vice President Diane Rowland provided the subcommittee with an overview of New Orleans' health care system and the challenges the system and city residents faced before and after Hurricane Katrina. [Additional resources](#) about health care in the aftermath of Katrina are also available.

Regional News

Region 3 Sponsors Mass Fatality Conference

The Bioterrorism Defense Network of Region 3 will be sponsoring a mass fatality conference on June 13. The event will be held from 8:15am-3:30pm at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. This conference will be particularly applicable to Medical Examiners and funeral home Directors. Further information, including agenda and registration instructions will be available soon. Save the date on your calendar!

Ingham County Selects New Health Officer

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is announcing the appointment of Dr. Dean Sienko as its new Health Officer. Sienko, 50, has served as the Medical Director of the Ingham County Health Department and Chief Medical Examiner for Ingham County since 1988. Sienko graduated from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, completed a preventive medicine residency at the U.S. Centers



for Disease Control. He is board certified in preventive medicine and public health.

New Region 6 Partner Key to Education Plans

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) will play a critical role as Region 6 enhances its ongoing education for all licensed health professionals, when the region hosts a series of National Disaster Life Support courses this year. Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) and Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) sessions will be offered at least three times in 2007, including one ADLS course at the GVSU Cook Health Sciences Center in Grand Rapids. The BDLS course is designed to introduce a variety of providers to emergency preparedness concepts, and the ADLS course provides more-intense, hands-on training in both classroom and field settings.

Individuals attending the ADLS course in May will use state-of-the-art education facilities that include classrooms and conference space and the GVSU simulation lab traditionally used by undergraduate nursing students. In another unique partnership, GVSU leaders welcomed the chance to work with health care disciplines from across West Michigan to host continuing education sessions that are quite different from "normal" undergraduate sessions. ADLS participants will also find themselves learning alongside GVSU Public Safety students and staff, members of the Grand Rapids Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team, and

the police bomb squad. Spectrum Health Decon Team will host the decontamination session of the course. Questions regarding either the BDLS or the ADLS courses may contact Region 6 at regionsix@kcems.org.

Other News

Boy Sick from Smallpox Vaccine

Doctors are treating a 2-year-old boy in Chicago for a rare and life-threatening infection that he contracted from his father, a U.S. Army soldier recently vaccinated against smallpox. The Indiana boy is in critical condition with eczema vaccinatum, an unusual side effect of the smallpox vaccine that can affect people who receive the shot or their close contacts. The boy appears to have passed the infection to his mother, who also has vaccinia. The mother and child are being treated at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital. There is no infection risk for the general population, since the vaccine virus can spread only through close physical contact.

Excerpted from Jeremy Manier / Chicago Tribune

Guidance For Safe Production of Fresh-Cut Fruits And Vegetables

On March 12, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published final guidance advising processors of fresh-cut produce how to minimize microbial food safety hazards common to the processing of most fresh-cut fruits and vegetables, which are often sold to consumers in a ready-to-eat form. The "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards of Fresh-cut Fruits and Vegetables" suggests that fresh-cut processors consider a state-of-the-art food safety program such as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system, which is designed to prevent, eliminate, or reduce to acceptable levels the microbial, chemical, and physical hazards associated with food production.



Training & Education

Date	Event	Location
Mar. 28, 2007 2-3pm	Critical Resource Logistics & Distribution In the event of a natural or manmade disaster, critical resources will be necessary for preservation of life, safety, and security. Preparedness plans must include a way to identify, dispatch, mobilize, accurately track, and demobilize available human and material resources across all incident phases. We will explore Critical Resources Logistics and Distribution on this edition of Live Response. For more information visit the informational website .	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150



By Josette Lantis

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Apr. 30-May 4 or Aug. 27-31, 2007	Advanced Public Information Officers Course The goal of this course is prepare PIO's to make significant, positive contributions to their community's response to health-related emergencies by providing credible information to the public. Students will learn to apply their knowledge and skills to a health emergency situation through instruction and a series of practical exercises. Course topics include: legal issues, risk communication, interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, communicating during an emergency, media relations, use of the joint information center and stress management. There is no charge to the student for this training. FEMA will reimburse students for their travel expenses to the course. For information about the course contact Mr. Pete Vogel, course manager, at (301) 447-1101 or pete.vogel@dhs.gov .	Noble Training Center 490 Care Drive Ft. McClellan, AL 36205 (256) 240-7500
May 1, 2007	DeValle Institute For Emergency Preparedness Mini-Conferences 2007 The series will demonstrate the need for information sharing, interagency communication, personal preparedness and risk awareness, as well as suggest strategies for meeting these needs. Series topics include: Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina, Lessons Learned From Columbine, Public Safety Response to Meth Labs, and Medical Intelligence and Information Sharing. For more information see the informational flyer .	TBD
May 6-9, 2007	6th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters Opening Keynote: Public Health and the Human Cost of War Presented by: Frederick M. Burkle, Jr., MD, MPH, DTM Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Harvard School of Public Health Closing Keynote: The 150th Anniversary of the Fort Tejon Earthquake Presented by: Lucile Jones, PhD Project Chief, Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project U.S. Geological Survey To register, please visit UCLA's Center for Public Health website .	Torrance Marriott 3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90503 (310) 316-3636
May 8-11, 2007	Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo "Coming Together Under One Umbrella" The combined effort of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Michigan Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, hands-on workshop sessions, an expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. Watch for additional information on the MSP-EMHSD website .	Devos Place 303 Monroe Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 742-6500

* For all events at OPHP, please call to schedule at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.

Date	Event	Location
May 17, 2007 8:30am-4:00pm or May 24, 2007 8:30am-4:00pm	7th Annual Michigan Communicable Disease Conference This all-day conferences will provide the latest communicable disease information on such topics as waterborne diseases, bioterrorism agents, Clostridium difficile associated disease, poison control, surveillance systems, local public health investigations, and many other topics. Any persons involved with communicable disease prevention and control (such as public health nurses, sanitarians, medical directors, health officers, infections control professionals, and infectious disease physicians) are welcome to attend. CME and CEU credits offered. Conference fee is \$20 advance only. <u>Registration information and agenda</u> are available online. Questions can be referred to Gina Moreno, at (517) 335-8165 or e-mailed to morenog1@michigan.gov .	Garland Resort 4700 N. Red Oak Rd. Lewiston, MI 49756 (877) 442-7526 or Lansing Sheraton 925 South Croyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-7100
Jun. 13-15, 2007	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Annual Conference Plenary topics and breakout session track topics will be available soon on the <u>GLBHI website</u> , along with the official agenda and registration information. For more information, or to be added to the GLBHI mailing list, please contact Kathy Allen-Bridson at (517) 335-8199 or allen-bridsonk@michigan.gov or Michelle Bruneau at (517) 335-6533 or bruneaum@michigan.gov .	Conf Ctr Niagara Falls 101 Old Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303 (716) 278-2100
Jun. 14, 2007 8am – 4:30pm	“Expanding Roles & Responsibilities” 2nd Annual Conference - The Contributing Human Service Worker in Disaster Planning Topics include: Children and Terrorism, Contingency Planning, Immediate Post Event Interventions: Helpful or Harmful?, Incident Command Systems, Safety and Situational Awareness, Changing Roles, Human Response to Disaster and Reaching Vulnerable Audiences in an Event. Target audience: Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Physicians, Nurses, Teachers, School Administrators, Clergy, and any other interested parties. See the <u>informational brochure</u> for more information. To register please visit the MI-TRAIN <u>website</u> .	Lansing Sheraton 925 South Croyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-7100
Jul. 8-27, 2007	42nd Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology Presented by the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. One- and Three-Week courses are available. Topics include: Fundamentals of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases, Public Health Practice, Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer, Clinical Trials, SAS, Logistic Model, Linear Regression, Survival Analysis, Behavioral Change, Social Epidemiology, Longitudinal Studies, Global Health. For further information, please see U of M's SPH website.	Univ. of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI (734) 764-5435



Mailing Address:
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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